



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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extra copy

APR 26 2012

Ref: 8EPR-SR

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senator
8 Third Street East
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2012, on behalf of Mr. William Reichel of Libby. Mr. Reichel requests to have his property, located at 63 Crest Street, cleaned up by the EPA as part of our Libby Asbestos Superfund Site response actions. I have reviewed the information Mr. Reichel provided to your office and the EPA files on his property, and I appreciate this opportunity to provide the following information in response to his concerns.

Mr. Reichel visited the EPA's Libby Asbestos Superfund Site Information Center on March 22, 2012, and met with Mike Cirian, an EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Libby Asbestos site. During his conversation with Mr. Cirian, Mr. Reichel expressed his desire to have his property cleaned up for Libby amphibole asbestos.

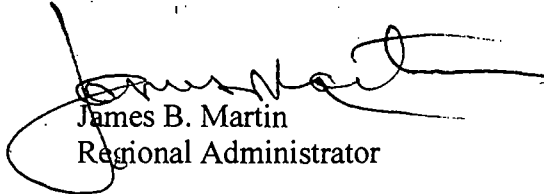
Upon review of the property file, it was found that a screening investigation had not been completed on Mr. Reichel's property during the EPA's Contaminate Screening Studies (CSS) performed in 2002 and 2003. We also found that an Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) "quick response" was conducted at the property in 2008 which addressed vermiculite in the soil of the property that was brought to the surface after a tree fell over.

On March 23, 2012, an EPA contractor met with Mr. Reichel to obtain his permission to access the property to conduct a General Property Investigation (GPI). Access was granted, and the interior portion GPI was completed. Since visible vermiculite was found in a special use area, the property is eligible for cleanup by the EPA. Our next step is to conduct a property survey, and an exterior GPI has been scheduled now that the weather will allow for an outdoor investigation. During the exterior GPI, samples will be collected and analyzed for the presence of Libby amphibole asbestos. The analytical results, along with data collected during the property investigation, will be used to determine the extent of the cleanup needed at the property.

Once the sample results are received, a removal plan will be drafted. When the removal plan is completed, EPA contractors will review the plan with Mr. Reichel. The cleanup on Mr. Reichel's property is scheduled to be conducted during the 2012 construction season once he approves the removal plan and grants access to the EPA to conduct the work.

We appreciate your continued interest in the EPA's clean-up actions in Libby. If you would like additional information, please contact me, or your staff may wish to contact Sandy Fells, Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604 or fells.sandy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



James B. Martin
Regional Administrator